

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication method comprising:

at media access controllers of all receiving stations in a communication system, detecting,

in a received signal, an indication of whether or not a response is expected or whether or not

there is an indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal;

at a station receiving, in a received signal, an indication that a response is expected or

there is an intent to continue, interpreting a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as

being a time that is reserved for a signaled response/continuation, interpreting a second idle time

slot subsequent to said transmission as being reserved for a network controller to gain a

prioritized medium access, and interpreting a third idle time slot subsequent to said transmission

as being a minimum time a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait

before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission; and

at a station receiving, within a received signal, an indication that a response is not

expected or there is no intent to continue, at said media access controllers of said all receiving

stations in said communication system, when said signal is detected, interpreting a first idle time

slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved for the a network controller to gain a

prioritized medium access, and interpreting a second idle time slot subsequent to said

transmission as being a minimum time for which a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal indication is included in a header of a frame.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal indication is included in a preamble of a frame.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal indication is included in a footer of a frame.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal indication is in the form of one subcarrier or plural subcarriers comprised of subcarriers for data transmission or a combination of subcarriers used for data transmission in a multicarrier symbol of a frame.

23-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

at the station receiving, within the received signal, the indication that a response is not expected or there is no intent to continue, A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network comprising a plurality of stations, wherein a station dynamically alters an inter-frame space by redefining an interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of: checking a medium activity indicator determining the end of activity on the medium, [[;]] and redefining an the interpretation of an the inter-frame space to contain a shorter time slot shorter than a time slot usually allocated when the medium activity indicator is checked.

29. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

at the station receiving, within the received signal, the indication that a response is not expected or there is no intent to continue, A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network comprising a plurality of stations, wherein a station dynamically alters an inter-frame space by redefining an interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of: resetting a medium activity indicator when no medium activity is indicated at the instant of time that activity is expected as indicated by the medium activity indicator, [[;]] and redefining an the interpretation of an the inter-frame space to contain a shorter time slot shorter than a time slot usually allocated when the medium activity indicator is reset.

30. (New) The wireless communication method according to claim 18, further comprising a step of, at the station receiving the indication that a response is not expected or

there is no intent to continue, redefining an interpretation of an inter-frame space to contain a shorter time slot shorter than a time slot usually allocated.